

INFORMATION REPORT
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CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 24 NOV 50

SUBJECT Sverma Brown Coal Mine at Ervenice

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1
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1. The Sverma brown coal surface mine is located at Ervenice near Most. It has a total personnel of 950 who work in two shifts. Each shift consists of 400 miners, one engineer and two foremen; the latter are Communists. Until March 1949 half of the miners were Germans. There is much open dissatisfaction among the workers, even among organized party members, because wages are so low that many miners with families are unable to buy the rations allotted to them.
2. Up to 28 October 1949, one million tons of coal were mined. Industrial consumption of brown coal is low, and this factor creates a marketing problem.
3. The mine has twelve dredging machines, two steam, one gasoline and nine electric. In the fall of 1948, a new Skoda M7 dredging machine with a capacity of 7 1/2 cu.m. was installed. At the same time an old German Krupp earth mover* was installed and mounted by the Skoda Works but because of unskillful handling it was not in operation until the spring of 1949. This machine was capable of moving earth a distance of 50 m. and of piling it to a height of 50 m.
4. The coal is transported to the central storage area by steam engines over narrow-gauge railroad lines. From this storage area it is carried by electric locomotives to the electric plant at Ervenice and the Stalin Works at Most.

25X1 Comment: The Vitkovice Ironworks has the same type of machine in the Roosevelt Mine.

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Date	2006/02/27
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